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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
16 APRIL 1953

THE IRANIAN SITUATION

The failure of the Iranian Parliament to meet on 16 April again underscores Prime Minister Mossadeq's current political weakness. A report sponsored by the Prime Minister, aimed at further reducing the Shah's powers, has been before parliament for the last month, but Mossadeq's supporters have been unable to secure the necessary quorum to act on it.

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Mossadeq's extensive but disunited opposition is also in a weak position, mainly because of the Shah's unwillingness to take any initiative.

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Mossadeq controls the Army Chief of Staff and he has a large popular following which the Communist Tudeh party has temporarily joined. While he has not been able to secure parliament's cooperation in recent days, he has a compact bloc of parliamentary votes, which can, in turn, prevent effective action against him by his parliamentary opposition. Since neither the Prime Minister nor his opponents appears at present strong enough to win decisive control, the situation appears likely to remain unresolved for some time. Under these conditions, competitive demonstrations and mass meetings are likely to continue and serious disorders might develop.

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